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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL REFORM: SOTTOMAYOR CARDIA

TAKES CHARGE

SUMMARY: MILD-MANNERED EDUCATION MINISTER MARIO SOTTOMAYOR

CARDIA IS ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST SPOTS IN THE SOARES CABINET.

DESPITE DETERMINED COMMUNIST OPPOSITION, CARDIA HAS MADE

SIGNIFICANT HEADWAY IN DISMANTLING PCP CONTROL MACHINERY

ERECTED DURING A SUCCESSION OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENTS.

END SUMMARY.

1. SOTTOMAYOR CARDIA TAKES CHARGE: EDUCATION MINISTER

MARIO SOTTOMAYOR CARDIA HAS DECLARED WAR ON COMMUNIST

ATTEMPTS TO DOMINATE THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. IN HIS EFFORTS

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TO TAKE POLITICS OUT OF EDUCATION HE HAS TAKEN THE PCP

HEAD ON. HE HAS HIT THEM WHERE IT HURTS MOST -- THROUGH DISMANTLING OF THE LABOROUSLY-CONSTRUCTED PCP APPARATUS WITHIN THE PORTUGUESE EDUCATION SYSTEM. TO DATE HE HAS:

-- SACKED A HOST OF COMMUNISTS AND PCP SYMPATHIZERS IN KEY POSITIONS WITH THE MINISTRY, INCLUDING:

(A) THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF BASIC INSTRUCTION, ROGERIO FERNANDES.

(B) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF CENTRAL SERVICES OF THE MINISTRY, JOSE SALVADO SAMPAIO.

(C) THE CHIEF OF THE PLANNING DIVISION OF THE FUND FOR THE SUPPORT OF YOUTH GROUPS (FAOJ), OCTAVIO AUGUSTO QUINTELA.

(D) THE CHIEF OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES DIVISION OF FAOJ, MARIA DA GRACA BAPTISTA GUEDES.

-- NAMED VIRTUALLY AN ENTIRE NEW TEAM AT THE POLICY LEVEL, INCLUDING NEW DIRECTORS GENERAL FOR THE MINISTRY'S FOUR BASIC DIVISIONS:

(A) FOR BASIC EDUCATION: ANTONIO CRISTOVAO SANTOS.

(B) FOR HIGHER EDUCATION: EDUARDO CARREGA MACALO GRILO.

(C) FOR SPORTS: MAJ RODOLFO ANTONIO CARBITA BACELAR BEGONHA.

(D) FOR THE FUND FOR SUPPORT OF YOUTH GROUPS: ALBERTO MANUEL TROVAO DO ROSARIO.

-- MOVED AGAINST COMMUNIST INROADS INTO THE TEACHING PROFESSION, THROUGH:

(A) REINSTATEMENT OF INSTRUCTORS ILLEGALLY PURGED FOLLOWING THE APRIL 1974 COUP.

(B) REVISION OF THE PROCEDURES FOR HIRING AND PLACEMENT OF TEACHERS.

(C) NON-ACCEPTANCE OF TEACHING CERTIFICATES FROM PCP-ORIENTED DIPLOMA MILLS HASTILY SET UP FOLLOWING THE APRIL 1974 COUP.

-- REVISED BASIC CURRICULUM TO ELIMINATE THE MOST FLAGRANT COMMUNIST ABUSES, INCLUDING:

(A) SUBSTITUTION OF PORTUGUESE HISTORY FOR MARXIST-ORIENTED SOCIAL SCIENCE CLASSES IN THE SEVENTH YEAR.

(B) SUSPENSION OF THE CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS, SAID TO CONTAIN HEAVY DOSES OF MARXISM.

(C) SUBSTITUTION OF A BASIC INTRODUCTORY COURSE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FOR INSTRUCTION IN THE DIALECTIC THEORY OF HISTORY, PREVIOUSLY MANDATORY FOR ASPIRING PRIMARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

-- ATTACKED CENTERS OF PCP IDEOLOGICAL PENETRATION WITHIN THE MINISTRY, BY:

(A) ELIMINATION OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION.

(B) CUTTING OFF FUNDS CHanneled THROUGH FAOJ TO THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED ALFA LITERACY TRAINING BRIGADES AND ANNOUNCING PLANS FOR A MINISTRY-LED, APOLITICAL

LITERARY CAMPAIGN.

(C) ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERMINISTERIAL WORK GROUP,
TO BE COORDINATED BY THE EDUCATION MINISTRY, TO REWRITE
THE STATUTES UNDER WHICH PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS
QUALIFY FOR STATE SUBSIDIES.

-- MOVED TO END ABUSES OF YOUTH PROGRAMS AND DIVERSION OF FUNDS,
THROUGH:

(A) SUSPENSION OF THE CHIEFS OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL FAOJ
DIVISIONS AND THE LAUNCHING OF A FULL-SCALE INVESTIGATION
INTO FAOJ ACTIVITIES.

(B) ELIMINATION OF THE INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTIONAL
INNOVATION.

(C) CLOSING DOWN REGIONAL CENTERS OF INSTRUCTIONAL
SUPPORT.

2. PCP REACTION: THE COMMUNISTS HAVE RESPONDED PRE-
DICTABLY WITH A FULL-SCALE COUNTER OFFENSIVE.

-- THE PCP HAS RELEASED A SERIES OF STATEMENTS CHARGING
THE SOCIALISTS WITH A CONCERTED EFFORT TO REVERSE THE
REVOLUTIONARY ADVANCES MADE SINCE APRIL 1974.

-- THE PCP MOUTHPIECE "O DIARIO," IN A STEADY STREAM
OF ALMOST DAILY FRONT-PAGE ATTACKS, HAS HEAPED ABUSE
AND VITRIOL UPON THE EDUCATION MINISTER.

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-- PCP DOMINATED TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS, IN SERIES OF PRESS CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS, HAVE CALLED FOR SOLIDARITY IN THE FACE OF WHAT THEY ALLEGE IS A WHOLESALE PURGE OF THE LEFT.
-- A CAREFULLY-ORCHESTRATED AND HIGHLY-EFFECTIVE WHISPERING CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN LAUNCHED ASSERTING THAT NO ONE'S JOB IS SAFE, SCHOOLS WILL NOT OPEN ON TIME, AND THAT THE SOCIALISTS HAVE SOLD OUT TO REACTIONARY FORCES INTENT UPON DENYING EDUCATION TO THE MASSES.

3. CARDIA COUNTERATTACKS: THE MINISTRY HAS RESPONDED WITH A VIGOROUS MEDIA OFFENSIVE OF ITS OWN. STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED ALMOST DAILY KNOCKING DOWN RUMORS AND EXPLAINING WHAT IS BEING DONE AND WHY. THE PS ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE MINISTRY AND AMONG TEACHERS HAS BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENLISTED TO COUNTER PCP-INSPIRED MISINFORMATION.

4. COMMENT: MINISTER SOTTOMAYOR CARDIA'S AGGRESSIVE TAKE-CHARGE APPROACH TO HIS JOB HAS TAKEN THE PCP AND MOST OBSERVERS BY SURPRISE. PERSONALLY MILD-MANNERED, ALMOST GENTLE, CARDIA WAS BEST KNOWN AS A PARTY THEORETICAN PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT. HIS NOMINATION WAS ALMOST AN AFTERTHOUGHT. SOARES TURNED TO HIM ONLY AFTER HIS FIRST CHOICES DECLINED. NOW AFTER BARELY TWO MONTHS IN OFFICE, CARDIA HAS ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AND HIS MINISTRY AS ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST SPOTS IN THE SOARES GOVERNMENT. HE HAS ALREADY MADE SIGNIFICANT HEADWAY IN DISMANTLING THE PCP APPARATUS FIRMLY ENTRENCHED DURING A SERIES OF PLIANT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENTS. HIS EFFORTS HAVE WON THE PRAISE OF HIS FELLOW SOCIALISTS, THE LEADERS OF THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, AND PRE-SIDENT EANES HIMSELF. DESPITE HIS NEW-FOUND NOTORIETY, CARDIA HAS LOST NONE OF HIS CHARACTERISTIC MODESTY. HE IS THE FIRST TO POINT OUT THAT TWO YEARS OF OFFICIAL NEGLECT AND SYSTEMATIC PENETRATION BY THE COMMUNISTS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS WILL NOT BE EASILY UNDONE. WITH TYPICAL HUMILITY, CARDIA RECENTLY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR HIS MINISTRY'S GOAL WAS ONE THE RECUPERATION -- TO TAKE POLITICS OUT OF EDUCATION AND RESTORE PORTUGUESE EDUCATION TO THE LEVELS EXISTING PRIOR TO THE APRIL 1974 COUP. HE IS OFF TO AN

EXCELLENT START.
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